

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CE-769

0807694326

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Cross Keys Inn or Krauss' Tavern

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

South of Harrisville on the old West Nottingham Road

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Rising Sun

☒ VICINITY OF

1

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Cecil

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT

☐ BUILDING(S)

☒ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☒ AGRICULTURE

☐ MUSEUM

☒ COMMERCIAL

☐ PARK

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ MILITARY

☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Harold I. Nesbitt

Telephone #: 658-6427

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Colora

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21911

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Liber #: WAS 310

Folio #: 647

STREET & NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☒ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Cross Keys or the Krauss Tavern south of Harrisville is supposed to have been built in 1802 by Leonard Krauss, tailor for George Washington. The building is constructed of brick laid in flemish bond on the facade and common bond on the other three walls. Also on the facade is a three brick wide belt course between the first and 2nd storey. Over the windows are splayed brick supports; the other windows have a lentil of bricks laid in an allheader bond. The house is four bays long by two bays deep and is two full storeys in height with an attic. The house has a gable roof covered recently by asphalt shingles, but was originally wood shingle. In each gable wall is an end chimney.

The inn is divided into four rooms on each floor with the southern two rooms being the larger. All but one room on each floor has a corner fireplace with mantel. In the cellar corbeled supports are visible beneath the hearths. The first floor has two very nice mantels which are very alike in design. They have fluted (gouged) pilasters with a frieze decorated with gouge carvings. The mantel decorative cornice of pierced dentils. Other important wood work includes the raised paneling in the door jambs, the transom with dentil trim, chairrail and a door way with an elliptical arch with inset panels in the jamb. This is similar to Holly Hall. In the rear room on the south side of the house beneath the windows are drawers with wooden knobs. The window sash on the first floor is 9/6 and 6/6 on the second floor. The second floor has several nice mantels which are not as elaborate as those downstairs. Also there are several raised panel doors with spoon locks.

The house has a stone foundation and cellar. An early board and batten door remains with very long strap hinges.

A frame rear wing served as a kitchen and it has been removed. There are several outbuildings (frame) which include a barn and carriage shed.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

CE-769

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1802

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Leonard Krauss

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cross Keys Tavern was a stopping place for merchants traveling from Lancaster area to Port Deposit during the early 1800's. Krauss, the owner, was a Revolutionary War veteran and a strong supporter of George Washington. His family has owned the tavern since it was built six generations ago. The building has some excellent woodwork and is worthy of preservation.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Miller, Alice, Cecil County, Maryland, Elkton: C & L Printing 1949.  
 Johnston, George. History of Cecil County, Baltimore: County Directories, 1956.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. Lutz III

ORGANIZATION

Cecil County Committee

STREET & NUMBER

RD 2

CITY OR TOWN

Rising Sun

DATE

June 1977

TELEPHONE

658-6850

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438



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PJB 3/95